

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 CIAE-00 /040 W  
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R 081500Z MAY 75  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2722  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CONFIDENTIAL LISBON 2592

LIMDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PINT, PO  
SUBJECT: TORY MISAPPREHENSIONS ABOUT PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS

REF: LONDON 6779

SUMMARY: EMBASSY BELIEVES YOUNG'S COMMENTS (REFTEL) ARE QUITE WIDE OF MARK. RECOMMENDS EMBASSY LONDON CHECK WITH FCO. END SUMMARY.

1. IMPRESSIONS OF PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS WHICH, ACCORDING REFTEL, YOUNG HAS ALREADY SHARED WITH TOP TORY LEADERS INCLUDE SOME FUNDAMENTAL AND DEMONSTRABLE ERRORS.

2. YOUNG SAID THAT CDS DID NOT GAIN "FIVE OR MORE" SEATS IN NORTH WHICH IT EXPECTED. THE FACT IS THAT THE CDS WON 16 SEATS, OF WHICH 12 WERE IN NORTH.

3. YOUNG SAID THAT IN "FINAL COUNT," COMMUNIST PARTY  
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GAINED FIVE NORTHERN SEATS CDS HAD BEEN EXPECTING. THE

FACT IS THAT THE PCP TOOK ONLY THREE SEATS IN NORTH (TWO IN POPULOUS OPORTO, ONE IN COIMBRA).

4. YOUNG SAID THAT THERE WAS "OBVIOUS MANIPULATION" OF ELECTORAL RESULTS, AND COMMUNIST VOTE WAS INFLATED. THE FACT IS THAT THE PCP'S VOTE THROUGHOUT NORTHERN PORTUGAL WAS LOW, NEVER EXCEEDING 7 PERCENT; IN AREA OF THEIR PEAK STRENGTH (SOUTH), COMMUNISTS PROVED UNABLE TO BEST SOCIALISTS, WHO RAN NECK-AND-NECK WITH THEM. MOREOVER, IN THREE SECTORS WHERE MANIPULATION MIGHT HAVE OCCURRED (HIGH ABSTENTION OR "BLANK" VOTE RATES IN CONSERVATIVE NORTH, DISPROPORTIONATE SUPPORT SHOWN FOR FELLOW TRAVELLING PARTIES), NONE DID. CDS'S BELOW-EXPECTED SHOWING IN NORTH WAS PROBABLY DUE TO FLIGHT BY ITS POTENTIAL SUPPORTERS TO PPD AND PS, PERCEIVED AS MORE VIABLE ANTI-COMMUNIST BULWARKS THAN CDS. HAD MANIPULATION OCCURRED, WE BELIEVE LEADERS OF DEMOCRATIC PARTIES WOULD HAVE PROTESTED PUBLICLY OR, AT MINIMUM, COMPLAINED IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH US. THEY HAVE DONE NEITHER. CDS LEADERS HAVE NOT TOLD US THEY BELIEVE COMMUNIST VOTE WAS INFLATED.

5. QUESTION OF PARTY FINANCES: SOCIALIST LEADERS TOLD US BEFORE ELECTIONS THAT THEY HAD NO MONEY PROBLEMS; PPD HAS NOT COMPLAINED RECENTLY. CDS UNQUESTIONABLY SUFFERED FINANCIALLY BECAUSE OF REPEATED ATTACKS ON PARTY HEADQUARTERS WITH CONSEQUENT DESTRUCTION OF CAMPAIGN, WHILE RECEIVING HELP FROM EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS DURING CAMPAIGN.

6. ASSASSINATION THREAT: CDS HAS SUFFERED MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF CAMPAIGN HARASSMENT. HOWEVER, WE KNOW OF NO CREDIBLE ASSASSINATION THREATS.

7. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, WE FIND YOUNG'S COMMENTS CURIOUS. ASSUMING THEY ARE NOT A PRODUCT OF HIS OWN MISUNDERSTANDING, THEY MAY REPRESENT A CDS ATTEMPT TO ASSURE CONTINUED TORY FINANCIAL BACKING. WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING EMBASSY LONDON'S VIEWS, AS WELL AS FCO ASSESSMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**To:** LONDON  
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